



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Valerie Lentini drives the 'Flintstones' car made by the Fosters. The car so closely resembled the original design that Hanna-Barbera wrote a letter insisting the Fosters to remove the 'Flintstones' name. The Fosters renamed it the Fosterstones.

Making people smile

STORY BY BENZIE SANGMA FOR THE INTELLIGENCER

away went the Fosters with their 20 plus crew, a collection of neighbourhood children and adults, and their unique array of displays.

The Foster Clown troupe took part in the city parade in the early 1980s for the last time. The troupe's parade equipment were sold to a representative of the Chambers of Commerce in Cornwall while the costumes were bought by a local rental business.

Don Foster, a former RCAF pilot, a railroad engineer and an alderman with the Belleville city council, died in 1994 but not before entrenching himself in the minds of those he left behind.

"He had a little train that he built with a friend. It carried 40 people. When Canadian National pensioners had monthly meetings at the Legion, Don would meet the train in his train and take them to the Legion for dinner and return them back to the train," recalls Rita fondly.

Foster and his son, Bill, were clowns for the Belleville McFarlands and were in the parade when the team won the world championship.

"Until the day he died he was a clown at heart," says Rita, now 84, as she began to flip the pages of the photo album once more.

You can reach Benzie Sangma at bsangma@hotmail.com with comments on or story ideas for Remember When.